

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES

ACTION

- On January 23, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the current rule that limits emissions of toxic air pollutants from iron and steel foundries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- The final amendments add a new compliance option and clarify several requirements in the existing rule. These amendments will improve understanding of the rule requirements. EPA expects that these changes will resolve the issues raised by industry trade associations after promulgation of the rule in 2004.
- The new compliance option will apply to the furnaces that melt the metal (called cupolas) located at existing foundries. Plants will be able to comply with alternative emissions limits of 0.10 pounds of particulate matter per ton of metal charged or 0.008 pounds of total metals per ton of metal charged.
- Other amendments address issues concerning the opacity limit for fugitive emissions, the triethylamine emissions limit; the standards for preheaters and capture and control systems; the requirements for scrap selection and inspection plans, operation and maintenance of process equipment and monitoring systems, performance tests, baghouse monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting; and definitions.
- The air toxics emitted from foundries contain metals such as lead and manganese and numerous organic compounds, including benzene, dioxin, and formaldehyde. These air toxic emissions are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancer and disorders of the respiratory, reproductive, and central nervous systems.
- The final amendments do not change the stringency of the existing standards or materially change the rule requirements. After compliance this year, EPA expects air toxic emissions from foundry operations to be reduced by more than 800 tons per year.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants.
- EPA's published list of source categories includes iron and steel foundries.

- For major sources within each source category, the CAA requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels reflecting the maximum achievable control technology. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic pollutant or 25 tons a year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- The existing standards establish emission limits for different types of process equipment in addition to work practice requirements which minimize the amount of contaminants contained in charge materials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy the notice, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- For additional information, visit the EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw>, or contact Mr. Phil Mulrine of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5289 or by email at mulrine.phil@epa.gov.